

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13
HA-05 /078 W

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O R 121744Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4052
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
USMISSION USNATO
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS GBEL
COMUSFORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 9460

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: EANES CALLS FOR PARTY PROPOSALS

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT EANES'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PARTY DELEGATIONS
SINCE DECEMBER 8 HAVE SO FAR PRODUCED LITTLE. HE HAS
NOW CALLED FOR WRITTEN PROPOSALS FROM THE PARTIES BY
DECEMBER 14. ENDSUMMARY.

1. EANES CALLS FOR PARTY PROPOSALS: PRESIDENT EANES
CONTINUED HIS MEETINGS WITH PARTY DELEGATIONS OVER THE
WEEKEND AND DEPARTED FOR GERMANY EARLY DEC 12. THE
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PRESIDENT WILL RETURN TO LISBON LATE DEC 14 AND NOT DEC 16 AS
ORIGANALLY PLANNED. IN A COMMUNIQUE RELEASED DEC 11 BY
PRESIDENTIAL CIVIL HOUSEHOLD CHIEF HENRIQUE GRANADEIRO,
PRESIDENT EANES CALLED ON THE PARTIES TO PRESENT BY WED,
DEC 14 DETAILED POSITION PAPERS ON:
THEIR CONDITIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR PARTICIPATING IN A NEW
GOVERNMENT PROGRAM;

-- THEIR DETAILS OF THE STEPS NEEDED TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECUPERATION; AND
-- THE NATURE OF THE POLITICAL COMPROMISE THEY ARE WILLING TO MAKE IN THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT.

2. LIMITED NATIONAL CONSENSUS: GRANADEIRO NOTED THAT THE PARTY POSITIONS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT SINCE THE FAILURE OF PRIME MINISTER SOARES'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE DEC 8 HAVE NOT ALTERED SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE TAKEN BEFORE THE VOTE. HE EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD FOUND GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- A SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND ON THE BASIS OF A GOVERNMENT AND AN ADMINISTRATION WITH MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THE ASSEMBLY;
-- THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT MUST AWAIT GENERAL AGREEMENT ON A NEW PROGRAM;
-- A NEW GOVERNMENT MUST REFLECT A POLITICAL COMMITMENT BY THE FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS PROGRAM.

3. GRANADEIRO PESSIMISTIC: IN DEC 11 CONVERSATION WITH POLCOUNS, GRANADIERO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NOT MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE DURING THE PRESIDENT'S DEC 10 DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIES. GRANADEIRO EMPHASIZED THAT THE COUNTRY MUST MOVE QUICKLY TO FIND A NEW FORMULA BASED UPON A PLATFORM WHICH WILL ATTRACT BROAD SUPPORT. THIS SUPPORT MUST EXTEND TO MAJORITY SUPPORT IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.
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THE FORMULA AGREED UPON MUST HAVE SOME PROSPECT OF LASTING FOR MORE THAN A FEW MONTHS. THE COUNTRY CANNOT AFFORD TO BE IN A CONSTANT STATE OF EXPECTATION.

4. SOARES STAYS ON OFFENSIVE: IN WEEKEND STATEMENTS; SOARES--AS PS SECRETARY GENERAL--EMPHASIZED THAT PORTUGAL HAD SURVIVED ITS FIRST CONTEMPORARY CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS BECAUSE OF THE PS AND:
-- WARNED THE RIGHT THAT IF THEY THINK THEY CAN PROCEED AS IF THERE HAD NEVER BEEN A REVOLUTION, "WE WILL SHOW THEM, IN THE STREETS IF NECESSARY, THAT THEY ARE MISTAKEN;"
-- CHARACTERIZED THE DEFEAT OF HIS CONFIDENCE MOTION AS A "NORMAL ACT" IN A DEMOCRACY. "WE LEFT WITH HONOR, POLITICAL CONSISTENCY, AND CIVIC DIGNITY."
-- NOTED THAT THE PS IS THE CUTTING EDGE OF PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY; NO GOVERNMENT CAN BE FORMED WITHOUT THE PARTY'S SUPPORT;
-- SAID THAT IF NO OTHER SOLUTION TO THE CURRENT CRISIS WERE POSSIBLE, HE WOULD ACCEPT A CALL FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT; BUT ONLY IF THE OTHER PARTIES ACCEPT HIS TERMS;

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-- DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE PARTIES ON THE BUDGET AND SAID HE PLANS TO RAISE
THE ISSUE AT THE NEXT ASSEMBLY SESSION.

5. PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL STANDS FIRM: AT A WEEKEND MEETING,
THE PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL:
-- CALLED FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS IF A PLATFORM AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE PS, PSD AND CDS CANNOT BE FOUND AND A COALITION
GOVERNMENT INSTALLED BY THE END OF DECEMBER;
-- REITERATED ITS RESPONSE TO PRIME MINISTER SOARES'S PROPOSED
PLATFORM AGREEMENT (SEE LISBON 9088) AND REAFFIRMED THE
BRAGANCA CONCLUSIONS (SEE LISBON 8073);
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-- INSISTED THAT NO PARTY HAS A PRIVILEGED POSITION IN MEDIATING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND SOCIAL FORCES;
-- DEMANDED THAT SOARES EXPLAIN THE COUNTRY'S CURRENT FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION, THE STATUS OF GOP GOLD RESERVES, AND WHAT ALTERNATIVE THE SOARES GOVERNMENT HAS TO "AN EVENTUAL BREAKDOWN OR DELAY" OF THE IMF NEGOTIATIONS. THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE PARTY'S FIFTH NATIONAL CONGRESS WILL BE HELD IN OPORTO JANUARY 28-29.

6. COMMENT: PRESIDENT EANES'S GERMAN VISIT PROVIDES A SLIGHT BREAK IN THE ACTION AND HE CLEARLY HOPES THAT BY THE TIME HE RETURNS, PARTY POSITIONS WILL HAVE MODIFIED ENOUGH TO ENHANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF SOME FORM OF PROGRAM AGREEMENT WHEN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIES RESUME DEC 15.
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